In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A process for inhibiting the fouling of a substrate in a fouling environment, which comprises forming on the substrate, before exposure to the environment, a coating comprising a single film-forming polymer, the film-forming polymer consisting essentially of film-forming polymer (A) carrying unreacted curable silicon-containing functional groups providing latent reactivity, and thereafter applying a layer comprising a curable polymeric fouling-inhibiting material (B) and bonding the applied layer to the coating by a condensation curing reaction involving the unreacted functional groups thereon.

2. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the curable silicon-containing functional groups of (A) are pendant functional groups.

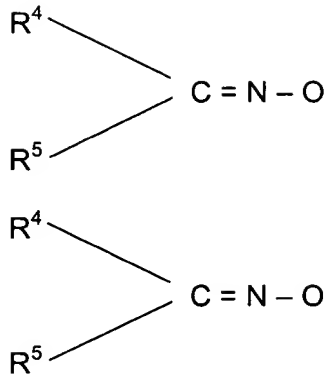
3. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the silicon-containing functional groups are curable by virtue of one or more curable functional groups selected from the group consisting of aliphatic, aromatic and araliphatic ether and oxime groups, which groups may be substituted or unsubstituted.

4. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the curable silicon-containing functional groups are groups of the formula

$$-Si(R_1)(R_2)(R_3)$$

in which the groups represented by R_1, R_2, and R_3 may be the same or different and each may comprise an ether or ester group, and in which one or two of R_1 to R_3 may represent hydrogen or a hydrocarbon group.

5. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the silicon-containing functional groups are curable by virtue of one or more oxime groups of the formula



in which R^4 and R^5 may be the same or different and each represents a straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated, aliphatic hydrocarbon radical; an aromatic group; or an araliphatic group; or R^4 and R^5 together represent an alkylene group; or one of R^4 and R^5 represents hydrogen.

6. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the curable silicon-containing functional groups are trimethoxy silyl or methyl dimethoxysilyl groups.

7. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the polymer (A) has no silanol or amine functionality.

8. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the polymer (A) carries no functional groups other than the curable silicon-containing functional groups conferring latent reactivity.

9. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein at least 55% of the repeating units in the film-forming polymer (A) are other than siloxane repeating units.

10. (previously presented) A process according to claim 9, wherein the proportion of siloxane repeating units in the film-forming polymer (A) is not more than 25%.

11. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the polymer (A) is substantially free from siloxane repeating units.

12. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the polymer (A) is derived from one or more monomers (A1) which carry curable silicon-containing functional groups and one or more monomers (A2) which do not carry such groups.

13. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the polymer (A) is derived from one or more ethylenically unsaturated monomers.

14. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the Tg of the polymer (A) is above ambient temperature.

15. (previously amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the polymer (A) has a number-average molecular weight in the range of from 3,000 to 10,000.

16. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the unreacted curable silicon-containing functional groups provide a period of latent reactivity of 48 hours or more.

17. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the fouling-inhibiting material (B) is curable by virtue of silanol or silicon-alkoxy groups.

18. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the fouling-inhibiting material (B) is curable by virtue of curable functional groups selected from the group consisting of aliphatic, aromatic and araliphatic ether, ester and oxime groups, trialkoxysilyl or hydrosilyl groups.

19. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the fouling-inhibiting material (B) is a linear polymer.

20. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the fouling-inhibiting material comprises a curable polysiloxane.

21. (previously presented) A process according to claim 20, wherein the polysiloxane (B) has the structure $R^3O(SiR^1R^2O)_nR^3$, in which R^1 and R^2, which may be the same or different on each silicon atom and on different silicon atoms in the polymer, each represents an alkyl group; an alkenyl group; a cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl group; an aryl group; or a halgenated or cyano-substituted hydrocarbon group, with the proviso that one of R^1 and R^2 may represent hydrogen on some or all of the silicon atoms and that R^1 and R^2 may each represent hydrogen on some of the silicon atoms, OR^3 represents a curable functional group in which R^3 represents a monovalent radical; and n represents a degree of polymerisation.

22. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the fouling-inhibiting material comprises a curable fluorine-containing polymer.

23. (previously presented) A process according to claim 22, wherein the fluorine-containing polymer comprises a fluoro-acrylate polymer.

24. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the fouling-inhibiting material (B) has a number-average molecular weight in the range of from 5,000 to 85,000.

25. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the fouling-inhibiting material (B) is applied in admixture or conjunction with a catalyst for the condensation curing reaction.

26. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the fouling-inhibiting material (B) is applied in admixture or conjunction with a cross-linking agent for the condensation curing reaction.

27. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the substrate has a worn or damaged anti-fouling coating thereon.

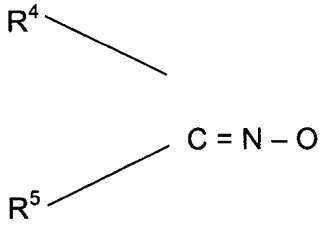
28. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the fouling environment is an aquatic environment.

29. (previously presented) A process according to claim 28, wherein the fouling environment is a marine environment.

30. (previously presented) A substrate in a fouling environment and bearing a coating and a cured fouling-inhibiting layer thereon, more especially a cured polysiloxane layer, formed by a process according to claim 1.

31. (canceled)

32. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the silicon-containing functional groups are curable by virtue of one or more oxime groups of the formula



in which R^4 and R^5 may be the same or different and each represents a straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated, aliphatic hydrocarbon radical.

33. (canceled)

34. (previously presented) A substrate in a fouling environment and bearing a coating and a cured fouling-inhibiting layer thereon, formed by a process according to claim 1.

35. (previously presented) A process according to claim 4, wherein the ether or ester group includes a straight-chain or branched alkyl moiety having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and in which the hydrocarbon group is a straight-chain or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

36. (previously presented) The process according to claim 5, wherein the straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated, aliphatic hydrocarbon radical has up to 7 carbon atoms; the aromatic group is a phenyl group; and the araliphatic group is a benzyl group.

37. (previously presented) The process according to claim 5, wherein the straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated, aliphatic hydrocarbon radical has up to 4 carbon atoms; the aromatic group is a phenyl group; and the araliphatic group is a benzyl group.

38. (previously presented) The process according to claim 5, wherein the straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated, aliphatic hydrocarbon radical is a methyl or ethyl group; the aromatic group is a phenyl group; and the araliphatic group is a benzyl group.

39. (previously presented) A process according to claim 10, wherein the proportion of siloxane repeating units in the film-forming polymer (A) is not more than 10%.

40. (previously presented) A process according to claim 10, wherein the proportion of siloxane repeating units in the film-forming polymer (A) is not more than 5%.